

MAR 07 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of SANSEVERINO, et al.

Application No.: 09/923,132

Examiner:

Date Filed: August 6, 2001

Group: 1641

For: **BIOLUMINESCENT METHODS FOR DIRECT VISUAL DETECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPOUNDS**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Amended) A portable system for detecting a selected analyte, comprising:  
a stably transformed bacterium containing a promoterless *lux* gene cassette having a regulatory element for a selected analyte inserted in front of the *lux* gene cassette;  
a support matrix onto which the bacterium is attached;  
an encapsulating material to contain said bacterium attached to the support matrix,  
wherein the encapsulated bacterium emits visibly detectable light in the presence of the selected analyte, and  
a portable detection device.

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